

OES-Director

From: Taylor Orr [wcrfloret@mcn.net]
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2003 7:38 PM
To: Veneman, Ann
Subject: COOL Funding

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November 24, 2003

Secretary Ann Veneman
1400 Independence Ave SW
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Secretary Veneman:

I understand that there are efforts underway within the omnibus spending bill to delay mandatory country-of-origin labeling for two years. This would essentially kill this beneficial law, which is unacceptable.

If the omnibus spending measure contains the anti-COOL language, I urge you to oppose it. Please talk to the Senate leadership about the importance of this issue.

As a consumer, I prefer to know where the food I purchase is grown and processed. We know where our clothes and other manufactured goods come from, but not what we put into our bodies.

Our nation's farmers and ranchers produce the best commodities in the world, and they should be able to differentiate their products from those of countries that may have disease or food safety concerns. Besides, America's consumers and trading partners are concerned about the origin of our meat, especially after the recent "mad cow" case in Canada.

Instead of delaying or killing this important legislation, please work with USDA to make sure COOL is implemented in a producer-friendly manner. Please do what you can to ensure the country-of-origin labeling law is successfully implemented to benefit consumers, farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,

Taylor Orr

03-4239806
AMS